



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

# Weekly Weather Crop Report

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Week ending July 20, 2008

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, July 20, 2008**. Unusually dry conditions continue to hamper row crops, pastures, and gardens. Scattered precipitation has done little to ease stress in these areas. Some producers are reporting dead spots in dry land fields; however, well managed irrigated crops are yielding positive results. Some producers are concerned with cattle prices, which have not been enough to cover costs of production. Fuel costs continue to plague producers. Soil moisture was rated 24 percent very short, 39 percent short, 35 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

Crop progress for week ending 07/20/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, silked	100	99	100	100
Corn, dough	88	73	94	88
Corn Silage, harvested	10	1	25	35
Cotton, squaring	97	93	99	97
Cotton, setting bolls	61	38	70	72
Hay-Warm Season, harvested	65	60	46	58
Peanuts, pegging	91	60	79	--
Rice, headed	24	10	29	36
Sorghum, heading	83	75	94	92
Sorghum, coloring	29	10	14	31
Soybeans, blooming	93	92	98	95
Soybeans, setting pods	71	62	76	81
Soybeans, turning color	0	0	3	4
Sweet Potatoes, planted	98	96	100	99
Watermelons, harvested	92	89	81	80

Crop condition for week ending 07/20/08

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	4	12	27	40	17
Cotton	4	8	31	46	11
Hay	7	16	26	44	7
Livestock	6	16	25	43	10
Pasture	9	24	32	28	7
Peanuts	0	0	7	93	0
Rice	0	3	14	56	27
Sorghum	1	5	23	50	21
Soybeans	5	14	31	40	10
Sweet Potatoes	0	0	25	70	5

## Comments

“Non-irrigated crops are really hurting because of the dry weather. Insect pressure is light but pumping costs are very high.”

— Don Respass, Coahoma

“Good rains around the 4th of July are holding the crops up for the most part, but the lack of moisture since then is causing non-irrigated crops to stress again. Irrigated crops are looking great, but it is getting expensive because of fuel cost. It feels like we're throwing money into a black hole.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We are beginning to see an increase of aphids in cotton. We need a rain to help the late planted beans.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Non-irrigated crops are starting to burn down with brown/dead spots in most dry land fields. Well-managed irrigated crops are looking good. Insect pressure in cotton and soybeans has been moderate.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“It has been dry, dry, dry. Spotty showers have done little to relieve stress on pastures, crops and gardens. If substantial rainfall is not received soon, hay will be in short supply heading into the fall. Cattle are also stressing due to above average temperatures and lack of forage. Some producers are already feeding hay.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“While some areas of the county got rain last week, the vast majority of the county remains extremely dry.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“It's dry in most areas of the county. Field crops and vegetables are suffering from the lack of moisture.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We are extremely dry! Corn has rolled up across the county and beans are starting to show signs of dry weather. Some cotton is 4 NAWF (Nodes above white flower) or less and has only been blooming about 10 days.”

— Stephen Winters, Grenada

“Dry weather has returned to the north Mississippi area. Pastures are not growing and the second cutting of hay has been less volume than desired. Cattle prices have not been high enough to cover production cost and some producers will exit the business by years’ end.”

— Mike Howell, Lee

“Rainfall has been scattered throughout the area and is reflected in crop conditions. Insect and disease pressure remain light.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Soybeans with high yield potential are still being treated with fungicides. Irrigation is keeping producers busy 24-7.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Field conditions are extremely variable, depending on localized rainfall. Conditions range from extremely dry to abundant moisture within a few miles.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Temperatures of 98 degrees and heat indices of 105+ are drying out what little moisture is left in the soil. Growth of forages in pastures and hay fields are slowing down rapidly. Last week I spotted several fields that had armyworms in them. Most of the worms were 7-10 days old.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Silage harvest is completed and the yields look great. Grain corn is drying down and it looks like we will begin harvesting in the next three to four weeks. The crop looks really good at this time. Cotton is flowering well and setting squares and bolls. We could use some rain at this time. Many areas are extremely dry. In many of our pastures the grasses are drying up. These areas definitely need rain.”

— Billy Maily, Hinds

“Severe drought is beginning to take its toll on crops and pastures.”

— Randy Smith, Covington

“The entire county is very dry and in desperate need of rain.”

— Amanda Walker, Lawrence

“Producers have been baling hay daily and yields are higher than in previous years. Peanuts and cotton are looking good at this point.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

Mississippi Weather Summary for Week Ending 07/20/08													
Division/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Plan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
<b>Upper Delta</b>													
Cleveland	97	65	81	83	2	0.00	-0.92	0	0.57				
Lambert	99	61	80			0.00	-0.80	0	1.98				
Tunica	95	65	80	82	-2	0.00	-0.83	0	0.59				
Extreme/Average	99	61	80	83	-3	0.00	-0.85	0	1.05				
<b>North-Central</b>													
Calhoun City	94	60	78	81	-3	0.00	-0.96	0	0.66				
Holly Springs	96	55	76	79	-3	0.00	-1.05	0	1.41				
Independence	94	58	77	80	-3	0.00	-0.87	0	0.35				
Oxford	95	60	78	80	-2	0.17	-0.74	1	0.83				
Extreme/Average	95	55	75	80	-5	0.04	-0.91	0	0.81				
<b>Northeast</b>													
Pontotoc	95	60	78	81	-3	0.00	-1.03	0	1.43				
Ripley	96	59	77	80	-3	0.00	-1.09	0	1.35				
Tupelo	96	64	81			0.00	0.00	0	1.96				
Verona	98	63	80	81	-1	0.00	-0.77	0	0.89				
Extreme/Average	98	59	79	81	-2	0.00	-0.96	0	1.41				
<b>Lower Delta</b>													
Moorhead	94	65	80	82	-2	0.00	-1.11	0	2.16				
Rolling Fork	97	63	81	82	-1	0.00	-0.92	0	2.02				
Stoneville	97	65	81	83	-2	0.00	-0.90	0	1.12				
Yazoo City	94	65	81	82	-1	0.00	-0.98	0	3.69				
Extreme/Average	97	63	81	82	-1	0.00	-0.98	0	2.25				
<b>Central</b>													
Eupora	96	60	78	80	-2	0.00	-0.92	0	2.09				
Kosciusko	94	63	79	81	-3	0.86	-0.47	1	3.80				
Winona	93	61	78	78	-1	0.00	-1.05	0	2.55				
Extreme/Average	96	60	78	80	-2	0.29	-0.81	0	2.81				
<b>East-Central</b>													
De Kalb	96	65	78			0.00		0	1.73				
Macon	96	65	81	81	0	0.00	-1.05	0	1.91				
State University	97	63	80	81	-1	0.00	-1.00	0	0.90				
Extreme/Average	97	63	80	81	-1	0.00	-1.03	0	1.51				
<b>Southwest</b>													
Crystal Springs	98	64	83	82	1	1.36	0.40	1	2.68				
Natchez	96	62	80	82	-2	0.00	-0.91	0	0.95				
Oakley	98	58	81	81		0.33	-0.51	1	2.77				
Vicksburg	94	61	81			0.00	0.00	0	0.37				
Extreme/Average	98	58	81	82	-1	0.42	-0.34	1	1.69				
<b>South-Central</b>													
Collins	97	64	82	81	1	0.10	-1.02	1	1.20				
Columbia	99	63	82	82		0.36	-0.91	1	3.25				
Monticello	101	62	84	81	3	0.65	-0.41	3	3.57				
Extreme/Average	101	63	83	81	2	0.37	-0.78	2	2.67				
<b>Southeast</b>													
Hattiesburg	97	65	82	82		0.01	-1.32	1	2.16				
Laurel	96	64	82	81	1	0.00	-1.28	0	2.66				
Newton	95	55	77	80	-3	0.00	-1.12	0	2.88				
Extreme/Average	97	55	80	81	-1	0.00	-1.24	0	2.57				
<b>Coastal</b>													
Extreme/Average													
<b>State</b>	101	55	80	81	-1	0.13	-0.88	0	1.86				

DFN = Departure from Normal.